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ON PAGE 5B

WASHINGTON TIMES
29 April 1987

Soviet general admits radar treaty violation

J By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A Soviet general yesterday acknowledged that the location of a large radar system in Siberia technically violates the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty.

But Gen. Boris Surikov told reporters at a press conference that the large-phased array radar system at Krasnoyarsk could not provide battle management for a possible nationwide Soviet anti-ballistic missile system.

"It is alleged that this radar might form part of an ABM system on Soviet territory," Gen. Surikov said through an interpreter. "But in fact this radar, by its performance and specifications, is not suitable at all for solving the problems of the ABM defense."

Gen. Surikov, an active duty officer stationed with the Soviet Defense Ministry, said the Krasnoyarsk radar "therefore does not run counter to the spirit of the ABM treaty."

"Although I must say, in territorial terms, its location is not quite adequate," he said.

The ABM treaty prohibits the So-

viet Union and United States from building such large radars at interior locations away from the edge of each nation's territory.

The Reagan administration has charged repeatedly that the Krasnoyarsk radar is a clear violation of the 1972 ABM treaty.

President Reagan, in a report to Congress released March 10, stated that "we have deep, continuing concerns" about Soviet violations of the ABM treaty.

He charged in the report that the Soviet radars, such as the Krasnoyarsk system completed last year, "have the inherent capability to track large numbers of objects accurately."

"Thus, they could not only perform as ballistic missile detection and tracking radars, but also have the inherent capability, depending on location and orientation, of contributing to ABM battle management," Mr. Reagan stated.

Gen. Surikov said that U.S. early warning radars in Greenland and Britain, code-named "Pave Paws," were "much more suitable" for ABM purposes.

Retired Lt. Gen. Mikhail Milshtein, a former Soviet general staff

officer, said he was "surprised" by U.S. officials publicizing the charges over Krasnoyarsk since the Geneva-based Standing Consultative Commission was set up to address such problems.

He said the Krasnoyarsk radar was built in order to close a "dead zone" in Soviet space-tracking radar coverage.

However, Gen. Milshtein said the Soviets had offered to "destroy" the Krasnoyarsk radar system as a result of U.S. complaints.

Gen. Milshtein, Gen. Surikov and officers made the remarks during a press conference at the Soviet information office. The delegation was scheduled to leave the United States yesterday after a two-week tour of the United States sponsored by the private Center for Defense Information, a Washington-based group that has been critical of Reagan administration policy.

Gen. Milshtein has been identified by Soviet defector Viktor Suvorov as an official of the GRU military intelligence service. Asked about his intelligence background, Gen. Milshtein denied he was a GRU officer, but said he had been involved with "military intelligence" while serving as a Soviet general staff officer.

He was identified as "senior researcher" for the U.S.A. Canada Institute in Moscow, directed by Communist Party Central Committee member Georgi Arbatov.